

South Bend Water Works

Water Quality Report 2012

Is my drinking water safe?

Absolutely! The South Bend Water Works has met all of the Environmental Protection Agency's (E.P.A.) standards and regulations. In 2012, thousands of tests were performed to ensure safe drinking water. No contaminants were detected in our drinking water above the strict standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (I.D.E.M.).

Where does my drinking water come from?

The South Bend Water Works utilizes groundwater from the Hilltop and the Saint Joseph aquifers as its drinking water source. In 2012, 30 wells, 5 filtration plants, 4 pumping facilities, and 6 booster stations were used to supply drinking water to our customers.

The 30 wells range from 73 to 237 feet below the ground surface. A wellhead protection program has been implemented by the South Bend Water Works to ensure the quality of the drinking water source. Wellhead protection focuses on groundwater protection and pollution prevention. For more information on the Wellhead Protection Program please call 235-9670.

Why are there any contaminants detected in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain trace amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or contacting their web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> SDWIS #: IN5271014

Educational Language

Some people may be more vulnerable to trace amounts of contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly or infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek drinking water advice from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include: **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses. **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring. **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Lead if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

How can I get involved?

The City of South Bend Board of Public Works meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 9:30 am. These meetings are held on the thirteenth floor of the County-City Building located at 227 West Jefferson Boulevard.

Is the South Bend Water Works meeting other rules that govern their operations?

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the E.P.A. require the South Bend Water Works to continually analyze their water and submit the results to ensure its safety. The South Bend Water Works has a bacteriological sample site plan approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The South Bend Water Works has always exceeded all water quality requirements.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Tradúzcalo o hable con algien que lo entienda bien.

For more information regarding South Bend Water Works and their drinking water, please call the water quality department at 235-9670 or find it at the City of South Bend homepage at

http://www.southbendin.gov/city/departments/water_works/water_quality.asp

2012 Water Quality Data

Maximum Contaminant Level- The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm (parts per million) - The equivalent of one minute in 2 years, or one penny in \$10,000.

ppb (parts per billion) - The equivalent of one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10 million.

n.d. not detected - The lowest level that can be detected with current laboratory technology.

n/a - Not applicable

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Contaminant		MCLG	MCL	Range	Source of Contaminant
Microbial					
Total Coliform		0%	5%	n.d. – 1.18%	Human and animal waste
Regulated Organics					
Total Trihalomethanes		0	80	n.d. – 25.3	Disinfection by-product
Haloacetic Acids		0	60	n.d. – 5.3	Disinfection by-product
1,2 –Dichloroethylene, cis		70	70	n.d. – 3.3	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (2011)		0	5	n.d. – 0.6	Discharge from metal degreasing sites
Unregulated Organics					
Bromodichloromethane		n/a	n/a	n.d. – 2.0	Disinfection by-product
Bromoform		n/a	n/a	n.d. – 1.0	Disinfection by-product
Chloroform		n/a	n/a	n.d. – 1.0	Disinfection by-product
Chlorodibromomethane		n/a	n/a	n.d. – 2.4	Disinfection by-product
1,1 Dichloroethane		n/a	n/a	n.d. – 0.6	Solvent, degreaser, and fumigant
Regulated Inorganics					
Arsenic		0	10	3.8 – 3.8	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm) (2011)		2	2	.11 – .11	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries
Nickel (2011)		n/a	n/a	1.4 – 2.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)		4	4	1.4 – 1.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)		10	10	n.d. – 7.3	Runoff from fertilizer
Regulated Radioactive 2010					
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)		0	15	n.d.- 1.9	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross beta emitters (pCi/L) (2006)		0	50	0.1 – 7.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)		0	50	n.d. – 4.9	Decay of natural & man-made deposits
Uranium		0	30	n.d. - 1.6	Erosion of natural deposits
2010 Lead and Copper Sampling Event					
Contaminant	MCLG	AL	Range of detections	90 th percentile	Source
Copper	1300	1300	n.d. - 980	394	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	0	15	n.d. - 62	2.9	Corrosion of household plumbing

All units are ppb, unless noted

Total Coliform is expressed as a percentage of the total samples taken for a month.

Lead and Copper are measured in the 90th percentile.